#14
THE
COLLECTOR
-HANLEY-'84

THE COLLECTOR

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EDITORIAL

BILL G. WILSON, ED.

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"This issue is dedicated to the late Ray R. Russell, vice president of the Canadian Academy of Comic Book Fans, and avid TC fan and reader"

Regretful as I am to begin an editorial on a sad note, I feel I must pay tribute to the recently deceased Boris Karloff, who died at the age of 81 in a London hospital of a respiratory ailment. Mr. Karloff will long be remembered for his many roles in the horror pictures of the past. These great classic roles include those of: his famous Frankenstein portrayals, Fu Manchu, Mr. Hyde, and other various roles in "Voodoo Island", "The Body Snatchers", "Isle of the Dead" and many other horror films in which he was usually typecast in a major role. This fantastic man, Boris Karloff, will go down in movie history as one of the greatest actors to appear on the silver screen.

Now to discuss brighter things; one of which is the last issue of TC. #13 was a remarkable sell out, in that it took a little less than two months to completely sell all 500 copies. This issue was so remarkably good that John McGeehan gave it a "5" in his fanzine rating, which, in case you're one of the uninformed, is the highest rating possible. This, I'm sure you'll agree, is quite an honor, and I sincerely hope that through the cooperation of you the readers and our staff, we will be able to keep TC's rating at the top of the list where I think it belongs.

Now, to this issue. This issue's contents, I believe, seem to be quite well-balanced, and of top quality. I would personally like to thank all contributors for their generous contributions, and I'd also like to congratulate the winners in The Great TC Contest. I'm sure all of you winners will enjoy your prizes. For those of you whose entries were not winners, all I can do is to give you my thanks for having the interest in TC and in the contest to take the time to send your entry in. Because of the response received with this contest, I am considering the idea of conducting future contests with various prizes, all of which will be worth the time to send an entry in. Your response re: this idea would be most appreciated!//A word about this issue's publication and number of pages. Because of the TC Contest and other complications, I've been forced to set TC on a new schedule. TC will still be bi-monthly, but it will be set back a month. To put it simply, this issue is really the January-February issue, but under the new schedule (beginning this issue) it is actually the February-March issue. This will accomodate me by giving me more time to prepare an issue. Also, you may notice that various pages of this issue (including this page) are reduced a bit more than what the rest of the pages in the book are. This is to provide enough room for all of the material I had on hand for this issue. Hopefully, things will be back to normal next issue. If you like the idea of certain columns, etc. given more room in this way, I'd really appreciate your letting me know your views. Being swamped, as I was, with all the material I had planned to publish in this issue, I was forced to extend this issue to 28 pages with 4 supplementary advertisement pages. From now on, future issues will range in size to 24-28 pages per issue. The supplementary ad pages, I feel, are a good topic for discussion, so I'd like all of you to send in your complaints or appraisals or both. After all, I'm here to please you, the reader, and not just to slap a couple of pages together for the fun of it.

Reviewing the next issue: TC#15 highlights a cover by John G. Fantucchio; a back cover by Rann Fox; an article/review of "Seduction of the Innocent" by Steve Schulman; "Another Cup of Wine" by Louis Marra, discussing censorship in comics and Wertham; possibly a round table discussion on comic books today as compared to yesterday. If you readers will participate!; and any other top quality contributions I come across between now and #15. This ish, as always, will be 25¢

One last comment. Please try to keep your letters brief, and don't require long and/or detailed replies, because at this time of year I am very busy, and cannot answer all letters very quickly. All letters WILL be answered, but not immediately. After all, this is only my hobby, and hobbies have their time & place

That's it for another ish, friends. So now sit back and enjoy what I've spent many a brain-wracking hour over!

Illustrations by Gary L. Robinson & Jim Shull

UNSUNG HEROES

Title logo designed by Bill Q. Wilson

Doug Fratz

It has been estimated that over 700 super-heroes alone were originated between 1939 and 1944 during comicdom's so-called Golden Age or First Heroic Age. There was a war going on most of the time, and all sorts of propaganda was needed to keep up the spirits of the people of the United States. The adults had their many forms of propaganda, and the kids had comic heroes. Of course though the war itself wasn't the only big problem that America had at this time, as because among other things crime was at it's highest, and thus the reason (or at least part of the reason) for the many crime-fighting heroes as well as patriotic type war heroes.

Anyway, with all those heroes, of which many were just stereo-typed hack work, it is a sure statement that few if any comic fans are acquainted with all or even most of these heroes. They should not be ignored because today's heroes are for the most part undenyably based on these characters of comicdom's past. Thus in this column I'd like to simply take a look at a few of the Golden Age's obscure and unknown heroes.

YELLOWJACKET

Yellowjacket, the first of the insect controlling heroes, was the main feature in Yellowjacket Comics, published in the mid-1940s by Frank Publishing Company. Yellowjacket was as far as I know just an average crimefighter with control over bees which he managed by saying "Bees! To me!" and telling them who to get. His costume is just the average leotards/cape/gloves/boots thing (yellow and black) with no mask (but still a secret identity) a la Superman. Overall Yellowjacket was about as typical of the Golden Age as they come. He fought the average criminals, not as much the outright stealing type but the "cheating innocent people" type.

The art was just average, as usual more emphasis on style and less on pure quality. An interesting note of Golden Ageishness can be found in one issue I have. On the cover it features an announcement: "Meet Diane Carter, Yellowjacket's new heartthrob!"....Well, when he does meet her (after saving her life) here's an actual uncut version of their actual conversation: "You..er..might meet me sometime, Miss..er....","Carter! Diane Carter, and I'd love to sometime!" And that's it.

The rest of the mags were usually filled with war propaganda characters and such. Overall I suppose Yellowjacket is little more than an interesting memory.

QUICKSILVER

Being only a back of the comic seven pager in Quality's mostly humorous National Comics, you really wouldn't expect this, the original Quicksilver, to be too great. (An interesting note is that National (DC) very propably now has the rights to Quicksilver.) Then, after seeing the corny opening blurbs of "His muscles are of STEEL! His will is of IRON! His heart is of GOLD! (Sheesh!) His name is QUICKSILVER! a person feels quite sure. However, he sported some really great detailed art, in fact some really fantastic art, and his costume was fairly original, although somehow he had a red covering over the top of his face that seemed to be just painted on or something except that you could see the line at the bottom. As you might guess from his seven page format, all characterization was simply not there (except for the usual goody-goody attitude) and he had no personal life of any kind. He simply started out talking to some total stranger and getting into a mystery, and then solving it. And that was it.

Over all, even though it displayed some great art, he was no more than a little feature in a humor mag to add variety.

MARS

This was truly one of the most unusual strips around in the forties. It was featured in Planet Comics, one of the greatest science fiction comics of the Golden Age. Mars was of course the god of war. He had come back, in spirit form (which was handled beautifully by the artist, using all blue lines and shading his body a very light blue) and was intent on reducing the human race into HIS subjects and destroying all knowledge. The setting is in the future, and he works up until he has destroyed every university, museum, library, et cetera on Earth. However, on the moon in his base is Dr. Kort and two others, a young girl and a young man. Dr. Kort uses his machines on the moon to give the two kids all the knowledge there is so to keep knowledge alive and to keep the god of war from winning his quest. It is their duty to combat war, lust, and the hatred of man. (An interesting note here is that Mars' powers, which are as far as I can tell to just enter and control people, make him exactly like Deadman!) The Doctor had made as his last gift two thought-controlled robots to Nors and Mysta (the boy and the girl). After a fight in which Mysta must destroy one of the robots because Mars entered it, Nors is mad because it was his robot. Seeing that he was their weakest point, Mars takes control of Nors. (He does this not by entering him ala Deadman, but just by standing behind him.) Nors goes and kills the professor and starts the lab on fire. However, Mysta kills Nors and that leaves her alone, as the only force of goodness left to fight against Mars, the universe's most evil force, with only her robot as help. There it

QUICKSILVER

stands, Mars versus Mysta.

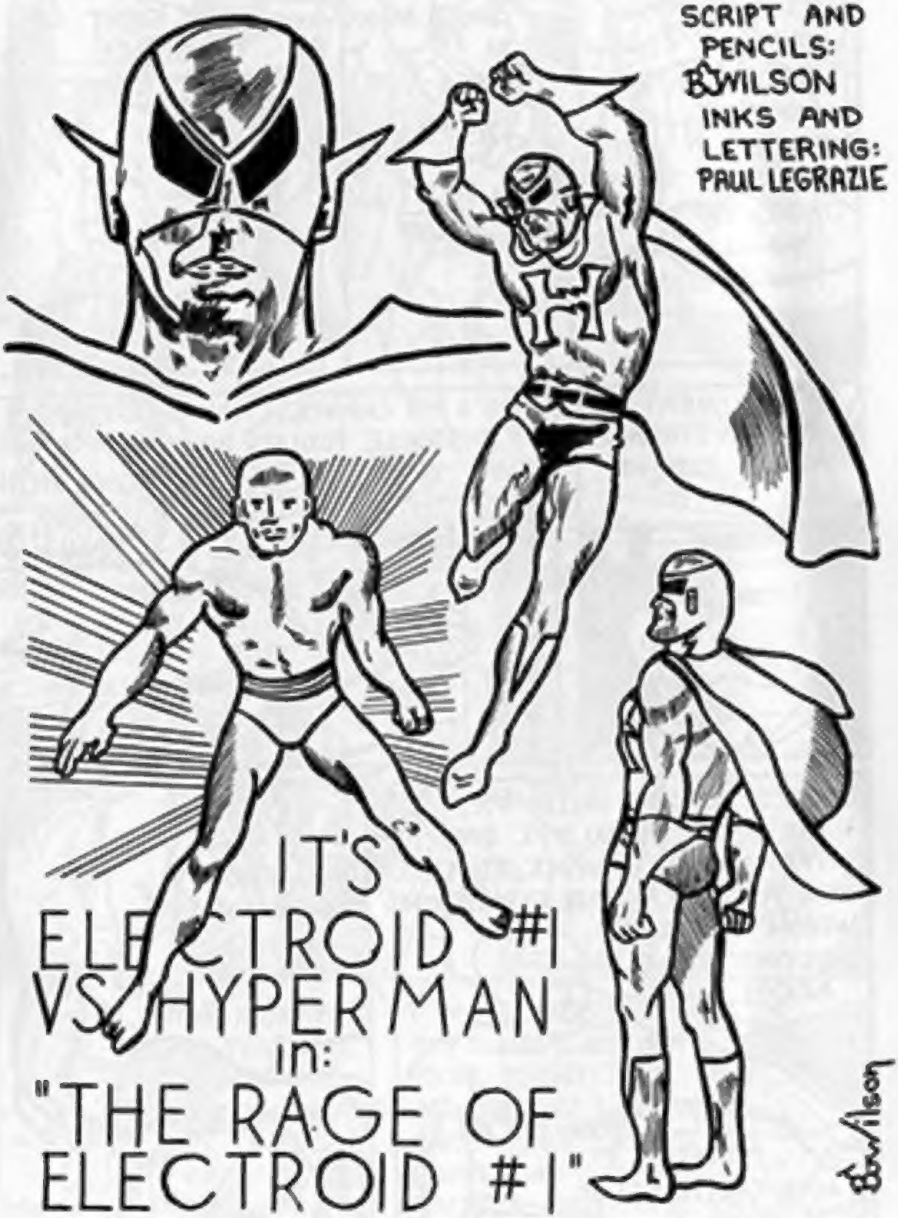
This is truly in every way one of the greatest strips I've ever read.Science fiction in comics at its best. I'd like to suggest that everyone try to get hold of this strip, in fact it would be nice for someone to reprint in some way (photo-copy). One of the really great ones.

(Next issue (hopefully) we'll look at some more of the offerings from the 40s)

Illustration by MARTIN L. GREIM

HYPERMAN

THE ATOMIC AVENGER



SCRIPT AND PENCILS: B.WILSON
INKS AND LETTERING: PAUL LEGRAZIE

IT'S ELECTROID #1 VS HYPERMAN in: "THE RAGE OF ELECTROID #1"

B.Wilson

IN THE APT. BLDG. IN WHICH WILLIAM THOMAS (RICHARD HARRIS) IS STAYING.
MAY I HELP YOU, OFFICER?
YES! HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?
WHY, THAT'S UNUSUAL! HE LOOKS LIKE MR. WILLIAM THOMAS, WHO LIVES IN ROOM 205! I HOPE HE ISN'T IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE....
..HE'S A VERY-- OFFICER! STRANGE! WHERE DID HE GO--?!?
NOW'S MY CHANCE! MY DISGUISE FOOLED THAT IDIOT!
NOW I'LL FINALLY HAVE MY SHOW-DOWN WITH HYPER-MAN!
205
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, HARRIS! OR SHOULD I SAY "HYPERMAN?" I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT A LAB EXPLOSION WHICH HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO!!
..IT JUST MIGHT INTEREST YOU...!!
YOU FOOL! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

LATER...
...WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
I'VE TRIED TO CATCH UP TO YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, HARRIS...
NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU, I CAN GET RID OF YOU!
THEN NOONE WILL EVER KNOW THAT I CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION!! YOU'LL BE DEAD AND I'LL BE A FREE MAN!!
HE KNOWS MY SECRET! IF I CAN JUST CONCENTRATE MY ENERGY ON MY BONDS! I CAN FREE MYSELF!!!!
I'M FREE!
-AND MY COSTUME HAS SUDDENLY MATERIAL-IZED!
YOU KIDNAPED ME, TOLD ME ABOUT THE EXPLOSION, AND MY UNIFORM APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE !?!?!?
I AM ELECTROID #1. I HAVE KNOWN YOUR IDENTITIES ALL ALONG! I WAS ONCE YOUR FRIEND, BARTHOLOMEW PARKER, BUT THE EXPLOSION MUTATED MY MIND AND FEATURES!

... I SENT YOU YOUR COSTUME AND TREATED IT SO THAT IS NOW LIKE A LAYER OF YOUR SKIN! I COULD HAVE USED YOU, BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW....
THEN...
..I MUST DESTROY YOU!!
..IN DESPERATION, HYPERMAN ATTEMPTS TO INTERCEPT HIM WITH PURE ENERGY..
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! BARTHOLOMEW HAS MUTATED INTO SOME SORT OF ANDROID WHO HAS SWORN TO ELIMINATE ME! AND MY ATOMIC POWER ISN'T ENOUGH TO NEUTRALIZE HIM! I'LL USE INVISIBILITY TO STALL FOR TIME!
WAIT A MINUTE! SOMETHING JUST OCCURED TO ME! THIS "ELECTROID #1" CAN'T BE BARTHOLOMEW!
...I REMEMBER READING IN THE PAPERS THAT THE ONLY BODY *NOT* FOUND WAS *MINE!*
...THAT MEANS- THIS "ELECTROID #1" IS AN IMPOSTER!! BUT HOW DOES HE KNOW ALL OF MY SECRETS? -AND ABOUT THE EXPLOSION?

LISTEN!! I WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE—AND HOW YOU KNOW ABOUT MY SECRETS AND—
OH, NO!! I'VE USED M--MY ENERGY VISION!!
I AM ELECTROID #1... I AM A SUPERIOR BEING.. GASP ...SECURITY GUARDS ARE BEING POSTED TO MAKE SURE NO... NO...
WHEN HE STUMBLED AGAINST THE MACHINE, HIS MOLECULES REVERTED TO THEIR ORIGINAL FORM!
BUT IF THIS IS TRULY BARTHOLOMEW, THEN WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND?!?
WHO-OR WHAT CAN I TURN TO FOR THE ANSWERS ?!?
THE END... FOR NOW

Illustrations by MAX GOTTFRIED and JANSON/ROBERTSON

NEWS & VIEWS

You are invited to send all news items to the editor,
Bill Wilson, at
1535 Oneida Drive,
Clairton, Penna. 15025

Have you noticed that Catwoman's new costume (as introduced in the March Batman, #216) is strikingly similar to that of the original Black Cat? I have, and I wonder how DC did it! Creeper #6 (probably the last issue) concludes his fight with Proteus, in what I think is one heck of an issue! Speaking of The Creeper, he's made his first, and probably last, appearance in JLA #70. This issue marks the appearance of Mind-Grabber Kids, who, if reader response is good, will make future appearances in JLA. Strange Adventures #217 marks the first of the reprints of Adam Strange and The Atomic Knights. The reprints will continue until things at DC are straightened out. DC seems to be making a lot of format changes with their books lately, in that Spectre #9 is another book which is changing its format. With this 9th issue, The Spectre begins his adventures with the Journal of Judgement, passing judgement on the lesser mortals. It's different, but I hope it doesn't dominate the book for very long. Action #384 features Superman as Super-Thief, Public Enemy Number 1 in his continuing struggle to find out his real identity. (an interesting note, or I guess you'd call it an oddity, is the fact that Super-Thief has a scar across the left side of his face, yet on the cover he is shown with the scar on the right side.) Rounding out the issue is "No Mercy for Supergirl". Detective #385 features a Batman saga, "Die Small--Die Big" and the conclusion to Batgirl's "Hunt for the Helpless Hostage". Batman betrays Superman, and reveals to everyone "Superman's Crime of The Ages!" As yet, I'm not sure of when Starlin's new strip, "Talon the Timeless" will be released. Anyone having this information, please let me know! Neal Adams is going to work for Marvel, on the X-men probably. In case you didn't know. From Max Gottfried comes this tasty bit of info: "Ho doubt you've heard of the somewhat "rumor" that Dr. Strange and Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. will be discontinued. From Marvel's Linda Fite, she had confirmed that both are going bi-monthly." Thanks Max! Creepy #26 has just recently hit the stands and it features 6 sizzling tales illustrated by guys like Tony Williamsune, Steve Ditko, Ernie Colon, Reed Crandall, Gray Morrow, and Jerry Grandenetti! EYE, for February, features an article on Marvel's super heroes (with illustrations in color) and a free, 20-page, Za5 Spiderman comic book which reprints "The Birth of A Super Hero". The article is quite good, and the comic is nicely published. Worthwhile reading!

--Bill G. Wilson, editor

Now, some SCOOPS! from Duffy Wohland --- The Spectre, The Creeper, Hawk & Dove, and The Secret Six are all cancelled. Anthro has been reprieved. DC is going to see how well the Adam Strange Atomic Knights reprints sell before they decide whether they will publish new stories. There may be a Viking Prince - Showcase in the near future. Mike Sekowsky will still be doing the art on Metal Men and Wonder Woman, even though he's been made an editor. Now hold onto your seat! There will be a logo change on Adventure. Instead of featuring a picture of Superboy, it will feature a picture of Supergirl because, starting with the June issue, it'll be her own mag! The Legion, featuring one or two heroes at a time, will be the second feature in Action.

Fanzine news ----- Bill G. Wilson ----- Fanzine news
"The Collector".....Negotiations are currently under way with British fan Steve Bee considering the possible Great Britain distribution of TC! Details next issue! There may, if plans go through, a TC Special this summer. Further developements on these items will be in future issues! There are currently TWO back issues available! #13 was a sell-out! "Klanik" from Steve Schulman, 9132 Four winds way Skokie, Illinois 60076.....This will be a strip zine, all other, about 32 pages and 50c per copy. Contributors include: (scheduled) Alan Hanley, Reed Crandall, Bhlip White, Martin L. Greim, and Bill G. Wilson. Out in a month or so.

NEWS and VIEWS
Continued

Fanzine news ----- Fanzine news ----- Fanzine news ----- Bill O. Wilson ----- Fanzine news ----- Fanzine news ----- Fanzine news "Comic Crusader" #3 from Martin L. Greenberg, 132 Dedham, Massachusetts 02026. ....which is no exception, and features, among an array of other interesting reading, artwork by John O. Fantauchio, Martin L. Greim, Bob Cangemi, Steve Fritz, Bill Wilson, and others, good by offset printing, and really good artwork for only 25¢ per copy!

"Quick Wash" #2 from Bob Schoenfeld, 9516 Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. 63134. ....is due out next week, so I'd advise you to order your copy or copies as soon as possible! The issue promises to be really great, and if you've seen previous issues, you'll know it will be! "Quick Wash" is only 30¢ per copy, and is off-set, with professional wraparound binding!

For those who haven't done so yet, I would advise that you get your ballot in for the Alley Awards as soon as possible. The deadline is approaching, so hurry! Your vote counts just as much as the next fan's, so get out there and vote!

NEW BOOK RELEASES — — —

From DC, Superman #213 features another imaginary story, "Superman's Bogus Marriage!" Superboy's nature caught against him in "Revolt of the Teenage Robots" in issue #134, Adventure #378 features "twelve Hours To Live". The next issue will feature Superboy's "Run-in Space" Lois Lane #91 features "Love is Blind" when the beauty meets the beast! "When Gods Make Madness" is the title for the latter Atom/Hawkman issue, #42.

From Marvel Subscriber #1 features "Death, Thou Shalt Die"/Spiderman #79 features the return of The Shadow! Captain America's mysterious death is finally cleared up in #133 as Cap regains a secret identity! "Eternity, Eternity" is featured in Dr. Strange #180, "Fight night for Fury" in S.H.I.E.L.D. #13! Iron Man Finds he is one of the "Captives of The Controller" in issue #13. Neal Brand Echh #13 will feature the debut of his work in FBF. Two prominent artists of the issue are Bill Dubay and Steve Fox (the latter, by the way, being the cover artist for the next issue of YC), among other greats of fandom. Be sure not to miss it!

Professional mags you shouldn't miss:

MAD, the latest issue ...which features, among other usual and unusual things, a parody on comic strip characters copying with today's major national problems.

CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN #13, ...which features articles on 2001: A Space Odyssey, Planet Of The Apes and its sequel, Dark Shadows, interview with Ray Bradbury, and loads and loads of other material which NO ONE can afford to miss!

---Bill O. Wilson, Editor

-----The below is a reproduction from the original of the 1968 Fantauchio Christmas card. A collector's item!!! Seen here first.-----

Reproduced with permission of John O. Fantauchio

THE GREAT TC CO

I WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO ENTERED THIS CONTEST FOR THE MAN

ONTEST RESULTS

...because of the exceptional entry quality, we have awarded two first prizes consisting of two full color FANTUCCHIO paintings.

Congratulations to...

Anthony Kowalik - Harvey, Ill.

Martin L. Greim - Dedham, Mass.

The FIVE winners of a King Comic pack plus a mystery comic are...

Gordon Matthews - Union City, Pa.

Mitchell J. Shields - Marietta, Ga.

Lamar Blaylock - Atlanta, Ga.

Sal Caputo - Scotch Plains, N.J.

Mike McGrath - Philadelphia, Pa.

T FINE ENTRIES WE HAVE RECEIVED.

AND OTHER NEW VARIOUS THINGS

DUFFY VOHLAND

MAIN TOPIC: "THE SECRET SIX"

Well, I'm back again with another of my fabulous (ha) "NEW" columns. Before I get started, did any of you notice the name alteration? To answer your question, I've decided to change my format alittle. Instead of just talking about new heroes and books, I'm also going to throw in odds and ends. That is, things that I would like to "get off my chest", so to speak.

Have any of you noticed that there are basically two kinds of zine buyers? They are the article-zine buyers and strip-zine buyers. I'm a member of the first category. Just give me a good article (if I'm hard up, I'll settle for anything), and I'll be content. How about you?

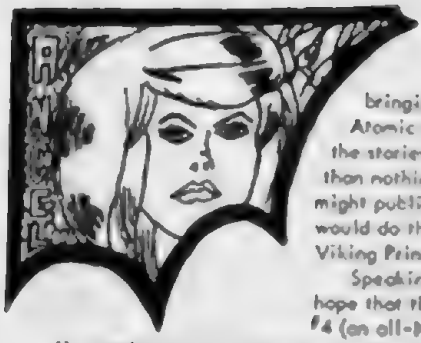
If you've read The Comic Reader #70 (a very good zine, by the way), you'll know that we won't be seeing the 12¢ comic much longer. We all knew it was inevitable. I don't know about you, but I like Dick Giordano's 20¢ - 48 page comic idea. Since DC usually has 2/3 story to 1/3 ads, this would mean 32 pages of story and 12 pages for ads. That way there could be a 20 or 22 page story with the cover feature and a 10 or 12 page second story featuring a hero that didn't already have a strip of his own, such as The Viking Prince, Green Arrow, etc. The giant could be raised to 30¢ or 35¢ with 80 or 95 pages. That would really be a comic book!

I've decided to take a Favorite Hero Poll. So, everyone please write and tell me who your favorite hero is. Everyone, send in your votes. My address is Duffy Vohland, P. O. Box 70, Clarksburg, Indiana 47225. The results will be in a future NEW column.

The new Spectre format is pretty cruddy, if you ask me. The Spectre is a super-hero, not an imitation Mr. L. Dedd or Dr. Graves. I suppose now, because of the big success of the supernatural type comic, the book will last. If it does last, and there are enough requests, we might get a super-hero-Spectre story. Let's all hope so.

National is at it again! They're discontinuing two of the best mags around, The Creeper and The Secret Six. I'll miss the SS a lot, but I'll never forget The Creeper. Not only that, but they're also temporarily (it had better be) discontinuing Deadman! After the way he proved himself, they have no right to even temporarily discontinue him. Of course, if they raise the price of their books, and feature a second hero, maybe we haven't seen the last of them.

Illustration by DAVE TRANSUE



"NEW" continued.....

One good thing they're doing is bringing back Adam Strange and The Atomic Knights. Although, at the present the stories are just reprints, that's better than nothing. If they prove successful, DC might publish new stories. Now if only they would do this with more features like The Viking Prince, Green Arrow, A-Man, etc.

Speaking of The Viking Prince, let's all hope that there is a VP story in DC Special #4 (an all-Kubert issue).

I'm getting very, very sick of seeing Batman in every ish of Brave & Bold. I know he sells a book, but if he has to be used to sell the mag, I don't know if the book is worth being pubbed.

DC is doing a pretty good job of upgrading their books. If you compare their comics of today to the ones they published, say, two years ago, you'd think they were completely different companies.

Have you noticed how National has been coming out with several Ghostly Tales-type books (The Witching Hour, The Phantom Stranger, etc.) and Archie-type books (Windy and Willy, A date with Debbie)?

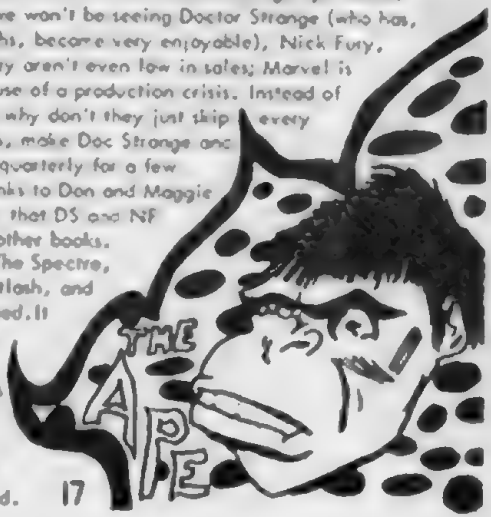
I wish Joe Kubert would replace those second filler stories with stories featuring discontinued strips like Mlle. Marie, Johnny Cloud, Gunner, Sarge, & Pooch, etc. Those fillers are about as interesting as watching a watermelon.

I think it would be a good idea to feature Beast Boy in the Teen Titans, maybe even make him a member. That way we could see more of him and his father, Mento. Mento could become sort of a mentor for the whole team, and with his money there would be many situations that would be otherwise impossible.

I kinda like the way Captain Marvel is being handled; at least it's better than the way it was. And with Syd Shores inking, the Dick Ayers pencils are bearable.

Marvel's getting as bad as DC in the discontinuing department. If things go as they plan, we won't be seeing Doctor Strange (who has, in the last six or so months, become very enjoyable), Nick Fury, and Not Brand Echh. They aren't even low in sales; Marvel is discontinuing them because of a production crisis. Instead of putting them into limbo, why don't they just skip every other ish? (In other words, make Doc Strange and NF bi-monthly and NBE quarterly for a few issues) I have heard, thanks to Don and Maggie Thompson's Newsfangles, that DS and NF could be co-featured in other books.

I've also heard that The Spectre, The Hawk&The Dove, Batlash, and Antheo may be discontinued. It looks like DC isn't doing too well with all their new ideas. Of course this is only what I've heard. I haven't seen any confirmation of the fact that they really are being axed.



Along with this they may reinstate House of Secrets and bring back Blackhawk.

In ish 13 of TC, Bill mentioned that I said The Banshee would be brought back, and The Inhumans given their own mag. Well, this is true, but these things may not happen for a good while because of the aforementioned production crisis.

I don't know how many of you remember it, but in a back issue of TC, Bill said I told him some whispered plans about, and he said he couldn't say. Well, the secret is out, and it's about Black Canary. She's coming to Earth-2 and joining the JLA. I don't know how many of you knew it, but I thought I'd mention it in case you didn't.

Now that I've got those things off my chest, I'll start on what I had thought would make up the biggest part of my column. Before I started this installment, I had planned to write on the Silver Surfer, but in the progress I learned that The Secret Six was to be discontinued, so I guess I'd better write on them.

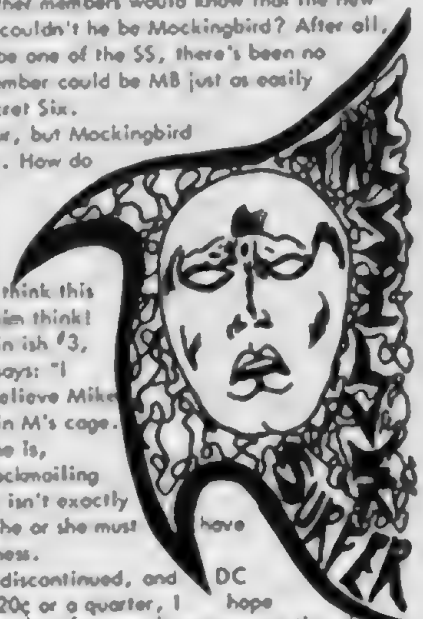
You know, as soon as I finished the first SS, I had the strangest feeling I'd just read a Mission: Impossible story. Oh sure, the SS is original in some aspects, but basically it is just an M:I take-off. I don't know whether E. Nelson Bridwell got the idea directly from the TV show, but I doubt that it is completely original.

The art in the first two issues was hardly praisable. I thought Jack Sparling's early art was bad, but Frank Springer's art makes Jack's art look terrific. Frank is doing much better on the Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. though. When Mr. Sparling took over as artist, it did upgrade the quality of the book some, because his art, as of late, has been pretty good.

The best cover, in my opinion, was on ish #2 with Nick Cardy's art. He has a knack for drawing good covers. Just look at some of his recent Aquaman covers.

In issue #3, Dick Giordano said they had toyed with the idea of killing off one of the members and replacing him or her with a new member, but, as Dick said, they hit a snag: the other members would know that the new guy couldn't be Mockingbird. Why couldn't he be Mockingbird? After all, Doc only suggested that MB might be one of the SS, there's been no definite proof of it. So, the new member could be MB just as easily as any of the people now in The Secret Six.

I don't know about the other four, but Mockingbird isn't King Savage or Carlo DiRienzi. How do I know? Well, in issue #2, page 6, first panel, Carlo thinks: "If Doc is Mockingbird...I have to make this convincing," and if he thinks this, he isn't MB because why would he think this if he was MB? No one could hear him think! The same is true with King Savage in ish #3, page 19, the last panel, where he says: "I wonder...until now, I just didn't believe Mike could be Mbird...but he might fit in M's cage.



If you ask me, whoever he or she is, Mockingbird is pretty heartless. Blackmailing those people into risking their lives isn't exactly what I would call friendly. I guess he or she must have some reason for this method of madness.

If the Secret Six is going to be discontinued, and DC does raise the price of its books to 20¢ or a quarter, I hope that The Secret Six is used as a secondary feature, because even though they are more or less a comic fan's Mission:Impossible, they're still good.

So, I guess this brings me to the close of another NEW column. I hope you like what I write about, and if you do please send your comments in to TC on your feelings about the things I brought up. I'd like to know what other people think on these things, too. And finally, don't forget to send me your votes for the hero poll.

//The illustrations on pages 17 and 18 were drawn by Duffy Vohland//

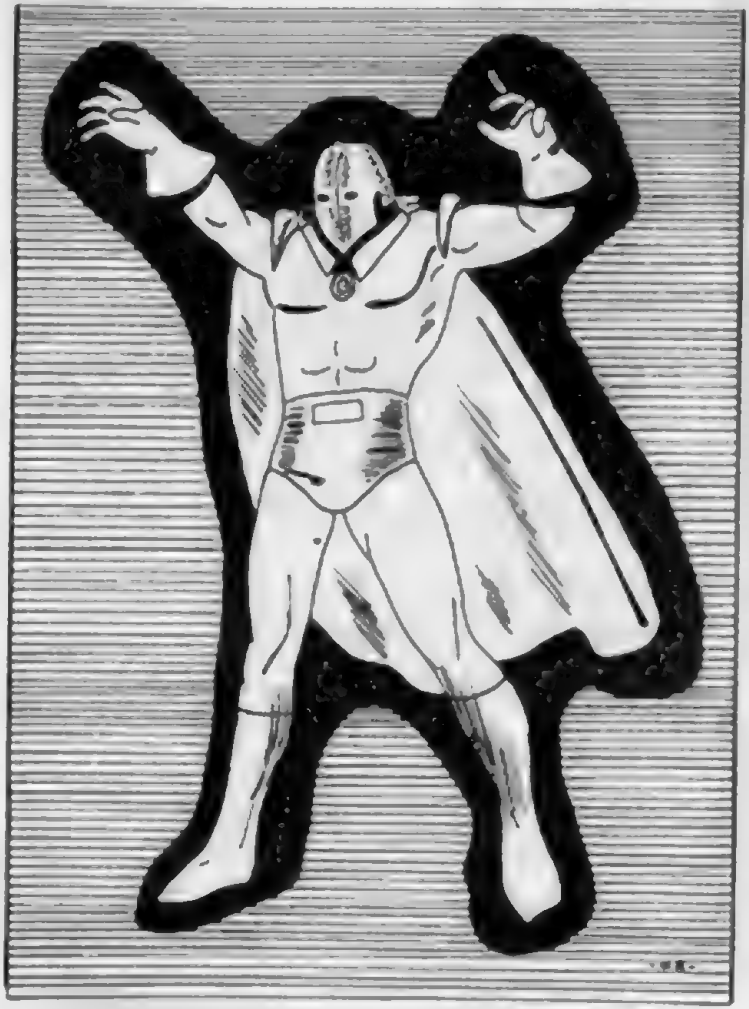
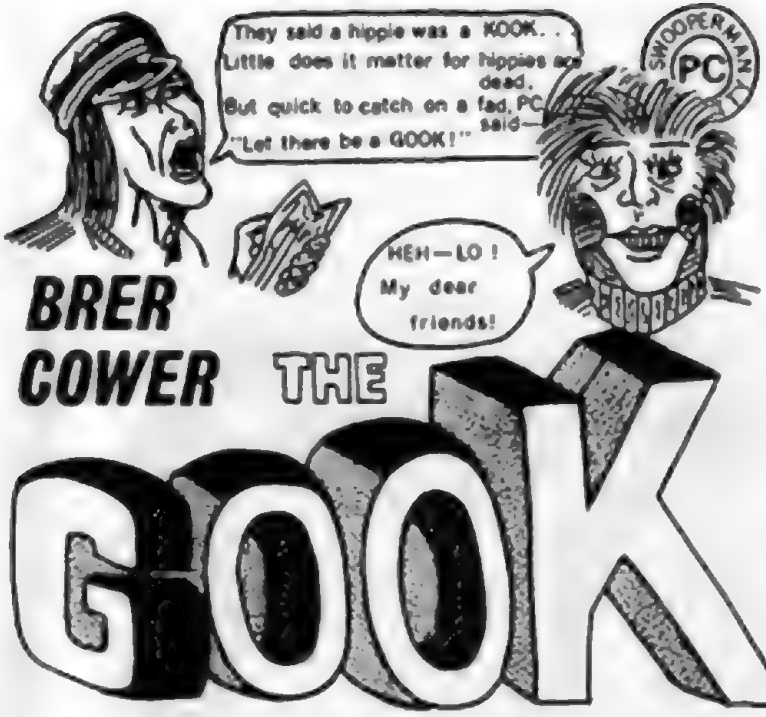


Illustration by MIKE ROBERTSON


They said a hippie was a KOOK. . .
Little does it matter for hippies are dead.
But quick to catch on a fad, PC said—
"Let there be a GOOK!"
SWOOPERMAN
PC
HEH—LO! My dear friends!
BRER COWER
THE
GOOK

Dwight Ronson Decker II AND Ol' Simon Templar

"Ho hum," said the Wisp, "what a boring trip. All it's done since we left New York is rain."

"That's because," explained ArnMan gently as he oiled a few joints, "we're on a submariner. Lordy, what I could have done if Tyrantman hadn't wanted me to come along on this trip though."

"What," asked the Wisp, "could you have done?"

"I had an appointment with Dorothy and the Cowardly Lion in Oz--- I think Harriet was involved, too."

Suddenly a hoarse 12 foot yell bellowed through the metallic sides of the Arrangers' submarine: "Hey gang, us true beleivers up front spotted something brain-blasting in the mind-rending water just ahead!"

"That's Tyrantman," the Wisp explained proudly, "he just joined the M.M.M.S. you know."

The Mighty Thak raised his mighty head and brushed back sleepily the golden curls from his head. "Tip-toe, through the tulips--ahem! What betokens Tyrantman's mighty call?"

"Why is everything mighty with you, Thak?" ArnMan wondered.

"Because, my mortal ally, it is the law of the mystic cosmos that all manner of things that are described mighty, are good things---except comic books."

Tyrantman bellowed again. "Thak get up here! I can't reach him--- it's a body of some man frozen solid in ice!"

Thok got up from the bunk grumbling. "When Hoe-down has his beauty rest, do they interrupt him?...Of course," he added, fingering a gold-spun curl, " he needs it. But always, when something is amiss, no one can handle it themselves -- they have to always Thok it to it."

Thok left. Arn Man relaxed on the bunk. Wisp went on gazing at the murky depths out the porthole. "DO you suppose," she asked after a while, "that the man froze stiff out there is some Id-time hero, like Captain Columbia, or the spooked detective, the Vector? Or the Wowser? The Black Marble? Or any one of a dozen other great names from times gone by?"

"I've got Raymond Miller's handbook here if you want to look them up."

"We've got him!" shrieked Tyrantman in triumph.

"Betcha a nickel it's the Rubbadubdubmariner," wagered Arn Man.

"I don't gamble." the Wisp told him, then added, "Except when I run the table."

"Here he is!" shouted the incredibly gaudy form of Tyrantman as he stalked in dragging by the yellow hair, a dripping, soggy figure.

"It's amazing!" gasped Arn Man. "Do you realize the odds against NOT finding a deep-frozen super-hero?"

"Always gambling." chided the Wisp.

"Shaddup," snapped Tyrantman, "I'll take care of you later, Wisp"--

--"For the first time in months"--

"--But be quiet now cause he's coming around!"

The drenched, soaked thing opened its blue eyes, weakly shoved a golden lock out of its face, and looked around. "Heh-LO, my dear friends!"

"Hey, wait a minute!" Thok exclaimed, "that's my scene!"

"Where am I?" the miserable wet creature asked.

Thok cut in on Tyrantman: "On the good ship, Lollipop..."

"Awright, you've had your questions," Tyrantman told him, "now for some of ours. Who are you? What are you doing here? Where's Captain Columbia?"

"Captain Columbia...? He was my brother! You see, we had the same father. My name is Brer Cower, the Gook. You see, I was a common tailor's dummy, befriended by hippies, and I was brought to life to help them in their hour of greatest need."

The Wisp looked at Arn Man. "It sounds like a combination of Frankenstein, Frosty the Snowman, with Raggedy Andy thrown in for good measure."

"What are you doing here in the ocean?" demanded Tyrantman.

The Gook looked up at him with tears in his eyes. "P.C. Comics created me too late. Hippies had died out before I was born. What hippies were left laughed at my magazine. So I was dropped -- into the ocean."

"A sad story." said the Wisp. "But what can we do with you? You're useless, frankly. I mean if P.C. Comics can't use you, who can?"

"Wait!" exclaimed Arn Man. "I've got it! I've got a job for you!"

"It better be good," said the Gook, "cause by the time my magazine ended, I was the Pope, and had just made saints out of my friends, Brer Rabbit, and Brer Bear, and Brer Fox."

"It's even better!" Arn Man promised. "Just follow me next week down the Yellow Brick Road, and we'll tack you up somewhere where you can wait for Dorothy."

In 1944
Sergeant Fury went to war
His t-shirt snapped
And killed a Jap
And that was the end of the war.

the end?

CRITICISMS

Letters from the readers . . .

Send All Letters To:
CRITICISMS c/o Bill G. Wilson 1535 Oneida Drive Clairton, Pa. 15025

RICK HOBERG 17551 Briarwood St., Fountain Valley, California 92708

Dear Bill:

I just discovered fandom (by way of the RB CC) approximately two years ago. Over this time I've bought and read many fanzines, some of which were good and many of which were terrible. Just a few weeks ago I sent a letter to you, requesting issue #13 of The Collector. I received it yesterday, and immediately read it. May I now compliment you? That magazine was the finest fanzine I have ever read.

This issue's layout was terrific, as was everything about the issue. But the highlight of the ish (as probably all of your readers will agree) was the art, and article, of John G. Fantucchio. I have seen this man's work in many zines over the last couple of years. At first much of it was only up to the standard of any amateur. Having seen many of, what I shall term, under-class works, I had come to the conclusion that he was no better than 1 or any other artists. Man, was I wrong. I am sorry Mr. Fantucchio. I owe you an apology. You, sir, are THE finest artist in fandom.

Every bit of his art in your mag was terrific. But I noticed one thing. All of his art contains certain abstractions. Such as the Superman pic (inside front cover) Look at the line-hatching technique for neck shading. Now look at the picture of the Black Cat. Does her hair seem odd to you? Well, anyway, his work is still (how many times can I say it?) fantastic.

The rest of the mag: Mr. Decker's article, Hyperman, Criticisms, etc., was really incredible. Finally, I will pay you the greatest complement I can. Here's 25¢ for the next Collector.

((Thanks very much for your kind comments on issue #13, Rick. The techniques John used on the two illustrations you mentioned were purposely used to create a different type of wood and composition. --- Bill G. Wilson))

ALAN HANLEY/1940 W. Wilson Ave./Chicago, Ill. 60640

Dear Bill:

TC #13 had to be the bargain of the year! Fantucchio is a great artist. He puts a lot of work into every illo. A great stylist-more surrealistic than realistic. How you managed to get so much of his work is a credit to you. The photos of John, the interview with him, the special quality paper, the overall layout of the mag, and the print type all made TC 13 top-top quality and, I believe, one of the finest issues that have come out of fandom ever. And only two bits! And there was nothing wrong with Dwight Decker's Prescription or News and Views. The Phantom repro was neat looking - stretching across the page like that. The Hyperman strip needs about 6 more exposures before it gets solidified and defined strongly enough before...well, before I'll comment on it either way. The EC Meets Censorship article was a repeat of every article I've ever read in fandom on censorship. Is there no one that takes variance with such an issue? Well, I do. If Wertham says the comics were 100% guilty, I say they were 50% guilty, and EC can walk away with 25 to 30% of that. If you want an expansion on all this let me know. ((By all means, Alan!--Ed.))

I like what you did with the Kiddy Kartoon Korps. First time I've had something like that done - waiting for the drawings - That's neat!

By the way, if Fantucchio wants to do a Captain Thunder or Spook he's welcomed. Good luck in future issues.

MIKE ROBERTSON Rt. 1 Box 95
Maple Valley, Washington 98038

Dear Bill:

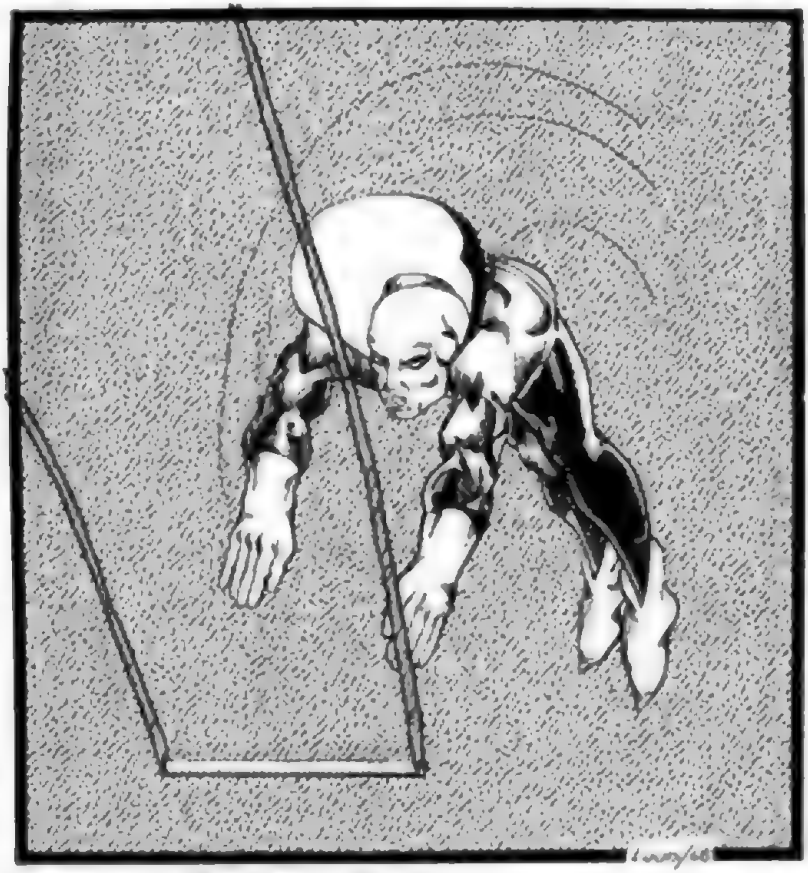
Many thanks for the copy of TC13--I've got a lot of comments to make this issue, so hang on!

John G. Fantucchio has to be one of the BEST artists doing work for fanzines at the present time. In fact, I will go as far as to say that he IS the very best - which is, plainly, my own personal opinion -- but an opinion that many comics fans and zine readers will share with me. John's cover for TC 13 was excellent, as was the rest of his illos for that issue -- but on the interview now, I find fault. Not with the layout or presentation of the interview, but with the questions themselves. Starting right off with the first question asked - it, naturally, would be something John's first collecting comics -- but the follow-up question was a bit 'out of the way' and worded wrong. You start off by saying, "Speaking of comics" -- which is not really needed at all, as when you're talking about Superman, Batman, Captain Marvel, Daredevil, and the Spirit, what else can you be talking about? Not that I've found fault with the second question, but to my knowledge, an interview is supposed to hit on topics which will interest the readers (which these questions definitely did) and in addition is supposed to work GRADUALLY from one topic to another; NOT skipping from one topic to another as you did here on the first and second questions./And the number of comics one has in his collection is entirely irrelevant to the interview at hand, unless John has around 47,000 or something of that nature (or some such fantastic collection as Bill Paczek's) -- and actually, one should take it for granted that John at least has a considerable collection -- after all, something must have interested him in the comic media (as we discovered in the interview) and logically he would collect the items that interest him. But other than that Bill, I found the article fascinating! I suppose I'm knit-picking on the above two points, but if they would have been scrutinized a bit more closely, perhaps you'd have left them out, in order to ask a few more questions; cutting them out would have left you a bit of space to do such, or to feature more of John's fantastic work - which would please everybody! ((I see what you mean, but I think John had his hands full already with what he DID do!--Bill W.)) But all in all, the interview with Mr. Fantucchio was excellent - it brought out all questions that have ever arisen in my mind, and I thank you very much for presenting it Bill!/The rest of this issue was, as your usual, an improvement over the previous issue! Dwight Decker can turn out some great and controversial pieces, so I'd chain him (along with Mr. Fantucchio) to the nearest desk around your place and let them work! ((They're both downstairs, strapped to my typewriter desk, pining away for some bread and water--Ed)) But Dwight brought out a very interesting point in his article - that of the outrageously high prices that dealers are charging for their material, when it is not the best of condition. May I say that I myself am a dealer of sorts, and I can guarantee you that my prices are some of the lowest in fandom, if not THE lowest. You know that yourself Bill, as you've seen many a list of mine. What I believe in is a fair deal, all the way around -- I used to be a collector myself (and by the term collector, I mean I collected EVERYTHING under the sun in the way of comics, from Adventure to Zap comics. I'd keep every issue

in the hopes that someday I'd have complete sets of things). But, as you know, this could never happen, so I decided to sell the bulk of my collection, and keep only what in my mind I thought was the best. But when I was collecting every comic under the sun, I was forced to pay high prices on numerous occasions, in order to get that rare, hard to obtain in any condition, back issue. Just the same I found a lot of good deals too, and was quite fortunate in doing so -- but these are what I remember distinctly, the good deals I got, and the people who gave them to me -- so, that's why I try to sell my stuff priced as low as I can without giving it away. But what is really needed in fandom these days is an organization (and by organization, I DON'T mean uniting fandom or any of that crap). But an organization of collectors, banned together to FORCE the dealers to lower their prices. Hey, that gave me a great idea! It could be an organization formed along the lines of a union, wherein any collector or dealer could join if desired, or didn't have to join if he wanted to pay the high prices. If every collector would get behind such an organization, as laborers get behind they're union, they could easily force the dealers to lower their prices by not purchasing any of their comics --- in short, money talks and if these dealers aren't getting any money for their books, most likely they'll HAVE to lower prices to at least get some return on their merchandise -- think about it, it could work. All we'd have to do would be to get behind ONE organization to make it work. ((Sort of like a comic collector's strike, huh Mike? --Bill W.))

And I'm about out of wind for this issue Bill -- many thanks again for the Fantucchio interview, and keep up the great work!

((You made some very good points in your letter, Mike. Yes, MOST DEFINITELY, dealers are currently TOO high-priced! If things get any worse, something will HAVE to be done! Keep your idea, Mike; we may need it!))



Illustrations by DAVE TRANSUE and KURT LUCKS

BOB SCHOENFELD/9516 Minerva/
St. Louis, Missouri 63114

Dear Bill:

I promised to write you a loc on TC 13, so here I am. But frankly, had you not made a point of requesting this letter, I would not be writing it. You see, there was time, back when I first began OTDB, when I was getting a lot of free fanzines marked "please loc" or something similar. And I would faithfully write a loc to the editor. But it's an unfortunate fact that in more cases than not I would wind up alienating myself from the editor because he would be unable to accept any criticism I might offer. So evntually I just stopped. Unless I know in advance that the editor I'm writing to can accept a negative outlook, I won't bother writing. The editor who is blind to the faults of his product will never improve and a steady improvement is what he should be striving for. If issue #1 of your zine is as good as issue #5, you've failed as an editor because you're not examining your product objectively./I'm not a pesimist, though you might get this from the foregoing. Nor am a defeatist or nihilist. I received a lot of Gosh-Wowish (if you'll pardon the pun) letters about Gosh Wow! But like a DC letter column, page after page of praise becomes a bit of a drudge. Thus the bulk of the letters I ran in GW #2 had some significant criticism to offer. It's an editor's job to weigh the criticism and decide if it is validly stated./So, with that out of the way, let's go. / What can I say about John Fantucchio? I don't have to tell you this, you already know it, but John is one tremendous guy. Honestly one of the nicest and easy-going people I've ever met and, obviously, a tremendous artist. His influence permiates almost all of the issue. His cover is one of the finest he's ever done and you've evry right to be proud. But I find myself more impressed by looking over John's illoes and layouts than reading your interview. The questions provide a nice background of information about John's interests, but the interview suffers in being too short. Not enough time is given to really develop some of the questions and some of the questions ("How many comics in your collection?") are awfully trivial and should have been edited out. I think perhaps the thing about John's art that most impresses me and the thing so obviously impressive in several of the illoes in the feature is his talent with zip-a-tone. He has an almost uncanny knack for choosing the most appropriate styles and putting them to the best possible use. The end result is a boldly realistic illustration. In particular look at the meshing styles on page 15 in the pic of his mystery hero./Much as I liked the feature on John, there were likewise features I didn't care for in the issue. Alan Hanley's childish look at heroes has some nice cartooning, but the whole idea strikes me as a bit silly. / You need a longer loc section and some controversy wouldn't hurt.

((Thanks for your criticism, Bob. I am not, as you probably know, afraid to hear constructive criticism from ANY one, no matter who the person is. I just wish there were more fanzine editors who felt the way I do.--Bill W.))

VARIOUS OTHER COMMENTS ON TC #13 FROM OTHER "COLLECTOR" READERS..

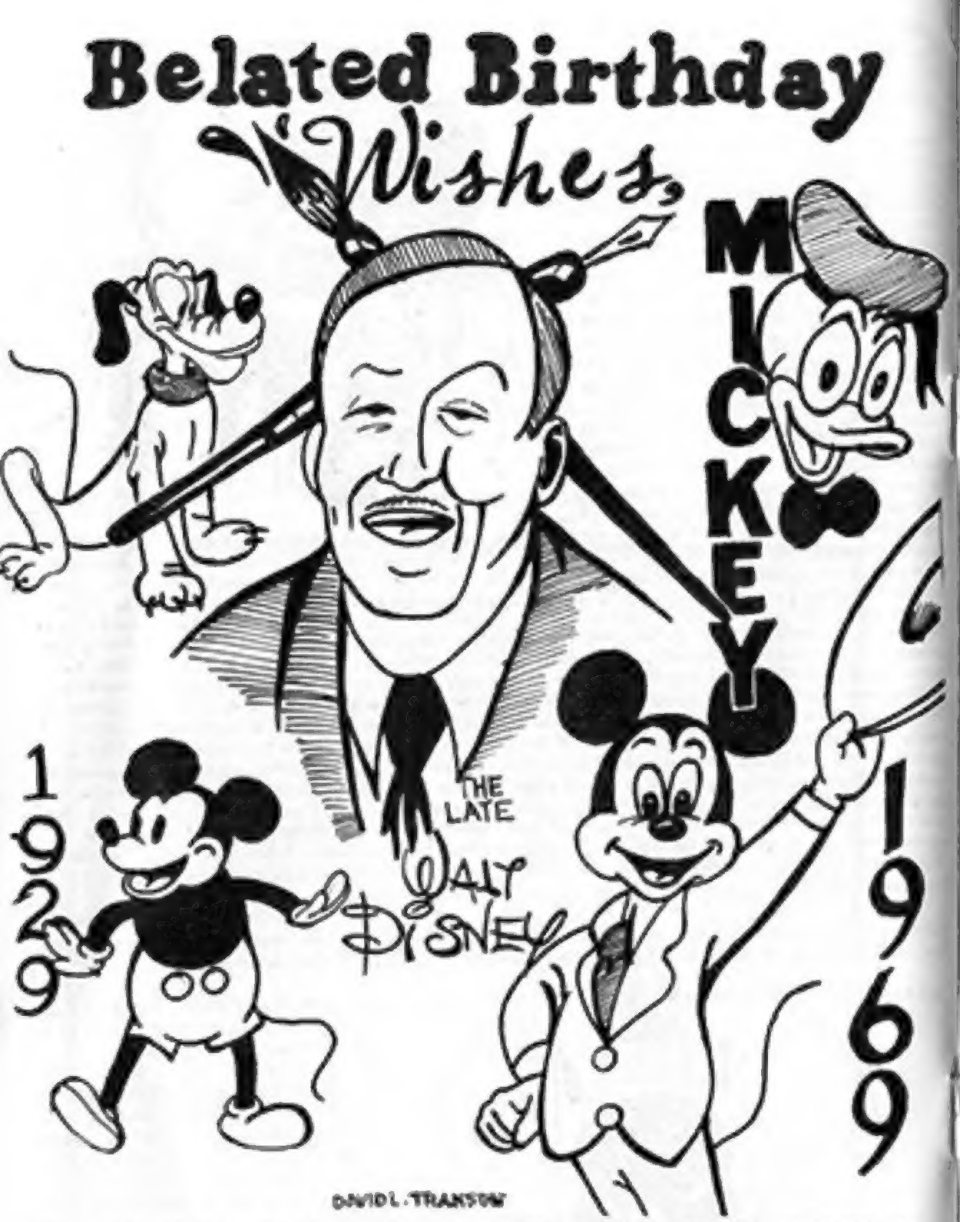
Joseph Tricarichi----------

Received (and relished) your copy of "The Collector" #13. What a fantastic issue it was! Fantucchio's effort was superb! Comparing it with previous issues I have received, it was a leap and a bound beyond. I praise you for your valiant and successful efforts in producing a steadily improving fanzine. Best wishes for continuing success and growth.

Jon Burlingame----------

Issue #13 of TC was great! It was my first issue, and won't be my last. I sure must have missed alot, and I'm truly sorry you have no back issues available. You have definitely hooked me on TC.

Illustrations by TERRY C. ALLEN and JIM D'AMICO



OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS, AND PUBLISHERS, AND TO ALL THE ARTISTS WHO, LIKE THE LATE WALT DISNEY, HELPED TO MAKE THE FIELD OF CARTOONING AND COMICS WHAT IT IS TODAY, IN THIS YEAR, 1969.

THE COLLECTOR
25¢

THE Collector #14